

REMARKS

When the present Office Action was mailed (April 1, 2005), claims 50-62 and 64-83 were pending, with claims 56, 75, and 78-83 withdrawn. No claims have been amended, cancelled, or added in this response. Accordingly, claims 50-62 and 64-83 remain pending, with claims 56, 75, and 78-83 withdrawn.

In the Office Action mailed April 1, 2005, claims 50-55, 57-62, 64-74, 76, and 77 were rejected and portions of the specification were objected to. More specifically, the status of the application in light of this Office Action is as follows:

(A) The specification was objected to; and

(B) Claims 50-55, 57-62, 64-74, 76, and 77 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2004/0119152 to Karnezos et al. ("Karnezos").

A. Response to the Objection to the Specification

The specification was objected to because the cross-reference to U.S. Patent Application No. 09/644,766 was not updated to include a corresponding reference to the patent issuing from this application. The specification was updated to include the appropriate patent number in applicant's previous response filed January 3, 2005. Accordingly, the objection to the specification should be withdrawn.

B. Response to the Section 102 Rejection of Claims 50-55, 57-62, 64-74, 76, and 77


Claims 50-55, 57-62, 64-74, 76, and 77 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over Karnezos. The rejection of claims 50-55, 57-62, 64-74, 76, and 77 over Karnezos should be withdrawn because this reference does not qualify as prior art under § 102(e). The present application is a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/644,766 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,607,937), filed on August 23, 2000, and therefore before the earliest priority date of Karnezos (October 8, 2002). Accordingly, the Section 102 rejection of claims 50-55, 57-62, 64-74, 76, and 77 should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the pending claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are patentable over the applied art. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and a mailing of a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-3982.

Respectfully submitted,

Perkins Coie LLP



Aaron J. Poledna

Registration No. 54,675

Date: July 1, 2005

Correspondence Address:

Customer No. 25096

Perkins Coie LLP

P.O. Box 1247

Seattle, Washington 98111-1247

(206) 359-8000